



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

7 GANG MEMBERS ARRESTED IN ICE-LED MULTI-AGENCY CRACKDOWN

ATLANTA—Seven dangerous local gang members were arrested here by special agents from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and officers assigned to the gang task force units of the Cobb and Hall County Police Departments.

Six of the seven men were arrested Monday. Among those was Oscar Guzman-Galarza, a 20-year-old who openly admitted to being a member of the SUR-13 gang. Guzman-Galarza was previously convicted of forgery in the 2nd degree.

Also arrested were Gustavo Guzman-Dominguez, 20, Israel Juarez-Rodriguez, 26, Jose Javier-Mendez, 18, Hector Torres, 25 and David Cuevas-Pineda, 19.

In a separate incident on Friday, ICE agents arrested 23-year-old Javier Hernandez-Jimenez, a member of the 18th Street gang.

All of those arrested are citizens of Mexico and illegally in the country. The men belonged to various local gangs including the 18th Street, SUR-13, GTO-13 and Riverside Locos. These are the latest enforcement actions under Operation Community Shield, an ICE anti-gang initiative launched in February to disrupt, dismantle and assist in the criminal prosecution of violent gangs by employing the full range of authorities available to ICE.

“Law enforcement partnerships are what keep criminals off the streets,” said Kenneth A. Smith, special agent-in-charge in Atlanta. “These arrests are a testament to the great working relationship between ICE and the state and local government.”

All of those arrested are in ICE custody awaiting the outcome of their cases.

The initial target of Operation Community Shield was MS-13, which is the largest and most violent street gang in the country. In May 2005, ICE expanded Operation Community Shield to include all criminal street gangs with foreign-born members. With the launch of this second phase, ICE's Operation Community shield aims to ensure that gang members have no safe haven in our nation's communities. Since the launch of Operation Community Shield, there have been more than 1,300 street gang members arrested nationwide.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.